

The examiner requested clarification as to the number of microsatellite markers in a set. Claim 1 has been amended to reflect that at least two markers comprise a set. Each marker comprises two primers.

The examiner requests clarification of the term "microsatellite marker." It is clear from claim 1 that a marker comprises a microsatellite sequence flanked on either side by a primer.

Claim 3 has been amended to clarify the term 'composite'. New claim 12 is directed toward a specific definition of a composite sequence.

Claim 4 has been amended to clarify the term 'imperfect'. New claim 13 is directed toward a specific definition of an imperfect sequence.

The term "polymorphic fragments" as used in claim 6 refers to fragments of different base pair lengths or sizes. Among several wheat lines, accessions, and varieties, several different size fragments (i.e., polymorphic fragments) are usually observed after PCR amplification. Thus, while it is

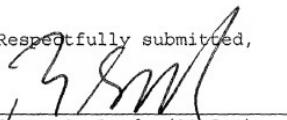


usually the case that the sequences are polymorphic (as called for in claim 6), it is not always the case.

Claim 11 has been clarified to refer to all of the 233 primer pairs, and the corresponding markers.

As all outstanding issues have been addressed, applicant requests that the application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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